

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03096 041511Z
ACTION EUR-12

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P R 041439Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2111
INFO RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 2221
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3096

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV HU
SUBJECT: TESTIMONY ON EASTERN EUROPE BEFORE HIRC BY DAS LUERS

REF: STATE 194188

THE SUGGESTED OUTLINE HITS FOR IMPORTANTS POINTS IN U.S.-
HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. FOR HUNGARY RECOMMEND YOU EMPHASIZE THE
FOLLOWING: HUNGARY PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE UPON IMPROVING BILATERAL
RELATIONS WITH THE WEST GENERALLY AND WITH THE U.S. SPECIFICALLY.
AT THE SAME TIME THEY REMIND US REGULARLY THAT BROADER EAST-WEST
RELATIONS ARE NOT DEVELOPING IN THE SAME POSITIVE FASHION AND MIGHT
HAVE AN EVENTUAL DISTURBING INFLUENCE ON BILATERAL CONTACTS. SO
FAR THE GOH HAS BEEN EXPERT AT KEEPING THE TWO WELL SEPARATED, BUT
BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL HUNGARIANS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR FEARS
TO US THAT IF MULTILATERAL ISSUES DO NOT IMPROVE, I.E., HUMAN RIGHTS,
SALT, AFRICA, THE RESULTING DETERIORATION OF MULTILATERAL RELATIONS
COULD HAVE A DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON U.S.-HUNGARIAN CONTACTS.

2. THE SEPARATION HUNGARY HAS DEVELOPED FOR TREATMENT OF BILATERAL
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ISSUES WITH THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, AS CONTRASTED WITH
BROADER EAST-WEST ISSUES, COMPLEMENTS U.S. POLICY TREATMENT OF
HUNGARY AS A SEPARATE ENTITY, PARTICULARLY SINCE RETURN OF THE
CROWN AND APPROVAL OF THE RECENT TRADE AGREEMENT. THIS APPROACH
HAS WORKED WELL FOR BOTH SIDES AND HAS GIVEN THE U.S. INCREASED
OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND POLITICAL CONTACTS, TRADE TIES, AND CULTURAL
EXCHANGES. IT HAS ALSO ALLOWED HUNGARY TO EXPAND CONTACTS WITH

THE U.S., AS WELL AS WITH OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, PERMITTED SLOW BUT STEADY DIVERSIFICATION OF ITS INDUSTRIAL BASE WITH THE HELP OF WESTERN TECHNOLOGY, BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, I.E., THE RECENT PLANNED KADAR VISITS IN WESTERN EUROPE, AND BROUGHT A LIBERALIZATION PROCESS WITHIN HUNGARY ITSELF WHICH IS CONTINUING.

THE ABOVE ARE THE MAIN POINTS WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE. PLEASE REMEMBER, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE HUNGARY HAS COME A LONG WAY AND IN A NUMBER OF INSTANCES IS WAY OUT IN FRONT OF ITS WARSAW PACT NEIGHBORS, TOO MUCH LAUDATORY NOTICE MIGHT RESULT IN AN UNWANTED ECHO FROM OTHERS NOT IN THE SAME POSITION.
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